

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00
FCC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-06 COME-00
BIB-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 TRSE-00
JUSE-00 SEC-01 FTC-01 /071 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/RA:DTMORRISON:JR

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

NEA/RA:JRCHEEK

NEA/ARP: CCECIL

EB/TT:JO'NEILL

L/NEA:DSMALL

NEA/ARN:DREUTHER

-----240833Z 070632 /21

R 232237Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064745

FOR AMBASSADOR PORTER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, ETRD, PFOR, SA

SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT: TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) 76 STATE 224661, (B) 76 JIDDA 8378,
(C) 76 STATE 271122

1. ON THE PLUS SIDE IN RECENT MONTHS, IRAQ HAS ESTABLISHED
TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELATIONSHIP WITH RCA AND BOTH SYRIA
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AND KUWAIT ARE WELL ON WAY TO DOING SAME. IN FACT, IN
KUWAIT CASE, IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT RCA WILL BE CHOSEN AS
PRIME CARRIER WITH OTHER U.S. CARRIERS OBTAINING NEEDED
CHANNELS UNDER RCA'S AGREEMENT WITH KUWAIT GOVERNMENT.

2. ABSENCE OF PARALLEL DEVELOPMENT BY SAUDI ARABIA TO
DROP APPLICATION OF BOYCOTT TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

CONTINUES TO BE TROUBLING MATTER IN TERMS OF PENDING FCC APPLICATIONS FOR AUTHORITY BY NON-BOYCOTTED CARRIERS TO SERVE SAUDI ARABIA WITH ADDITIONAL DIRECT CONNECTIONS, INCLUDING USE OF SATELLITE FACILITIES.

3. SUIT FILED BY ITT WORLDCOM ON MARCH 11 TO MANDAMUS FCC TO TAKE ACTION ON PENDING APPLICATIONS SEEMS LIKELY TO FORCE ISSUE OF WHETHER OR NOT FCC SHOULD GRANT OPERATING AUTHORITY TO ONE U.S. CARRIER WHEN ANOTHER (BLACKLISTED) U.S. CARRIER UNABLE TO COMPETE SOLELY FOR BOYCOTT-RELATED REASONS. RESULT, IN ADDITION TO SHAKING OUT POLICY DECISION BY FCC, COULD BE TO CREATE FOCUS OF ATTENTION BY CONGRESS/

PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS WHICH COULD SPILL OVER INTO OTHER AREAS OF USG LICENSING.

4. PENDING APPLICATIONS BEFORE FCC ARE EXPECTED TO BE GIVEN PUBLIC NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE ON APRIL 4, AFTER WHICH THE FCC WILL HEAR PUBLIC COMMENTS, INCLUDING THOSE OF OTHER CARRIERS. FCC MAY ALSO SOLICIT FORMAL STATEMENT OF VIEWS FROM STATE RE POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF APPROVAL OF SUCH APPLICATIONS.

5. WE CONTINUE TO SEE THE ONLY GOOD SOLUTION TO PROBLEM AS THAT WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN OR IS BEING TAKEN BY ARAB COUNTRIES (E.G., EGYPT, JORDAN, LEBANON, ALGERIA, MOROCCO, TUNISIA, IRAQ, KUWAIT, SYRIA) IN AVOIDING APPLICATION OF BOYCOTT PRACTICES TO TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES.

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6. IN LIGHT OF RECENT POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES (PARA 1) AND NEW SITUATION ARISING OUT OF ITT SUIT (PARA. 3-4), WE BELIEVE RENEWED HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATION TO SAG ON THIS QUESTION IS DESIRABLE. YOU MAY WISH TO DRAW AGAIN ON DEPARTMENT'S PRIOR GUIDANCE, AND SHOULD SEEK TO ELICIT POSITIVE SAUDI REACTION BY APRIL 4 IF POSSIBLE.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 23-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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